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MESSAGE CENTER

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

745h.00/4-2152

From: Amconsul, Lagos, Nigeria Desp. No. 365 XR 845h.00

To: Department of State, Washington APR 2 53 PM

April 21, 1952

Subject: Fortnightly Newsletter - April 7-19, 1952

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POLITICAL

House of Representatives Adjourns To August

Central House adjourned April 9 to August after budget session. Government's budget passed almost intact despite heated attacks by opposition members. Pioneer Industries, Lead-Zinc and Income Tax bills voted with only minor changes to Government's satisfaction. Opposition from self-described "nationalist" group. Hon. Anthony ENAHORO, Action Group-er formerly in NCNC developed into chief gadfly on industries bill and stated he was authorized by Action Group to state his party would not abide by provisions of bill in future if passed. Hon. AWOLOWO joined in unsuccessful attempt postpone consideration Lead-Zinc Bill. Daily Service, Lagos paper representing AG view, hailed Enahoro as "new Aneurin Bevan of Action Group". Most noteworthy aspect of debates was obvious lack essential information on part of many critics -- their criticism purely political and cliche-ridden.

All-Out Action Group Attack on Finance Minister HIMSWORTH

Action Group and its press carrying on loud campaign of insistence that Finance Minister Eric Himsworth "must go". His crime said to be active sponsorship Pioneer Industries and Lead-Zinc bills, called "obnoxious bills" by AG. Daily Service carries series editorials and column fillers against the Minister. AG's efforts not expected to prove rewarding.

H. F. MARSHALL Installed as Lieutenant-Governor Western Region

Former Administrative Secretary Nigerian Government formally installed in ceremony at Ibadan on April 8. Marshall has spent many years in Nigeria and considered well-qualified.

No Confirmation Report Ralph BUNCHE to Visit British Cameroons and Togo

Nigerian Secretariat officer responsible UN Trusteeship affairs says Secretariat not informed visit of Bunche reported in West African Pilot. Paper reported UN Trusteeship Director to visit West Africa with mission on Ewe problem of Togolands and status British Cameroons. No reason to believe Secretariat's reply untrue.

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ECONOMIC

Record Peanut Crop Almost All Sold by Farmers

Nigerian Groundnut Marketing Board bought 369,000 long tons peanuts to end of March with little further purchases expected. Record crop still piled up in North with little further purchases expected. Record crop still piled up in North with only 119,000 tons moved to port. Expect railway not able move entire crop by beginning next buying season.

Concern over Failure Move Cotton Crop from Buying Centers

Record cottoncrop Northern Nigeria slow in moving to gins as result railway inadequacy cope with peanut and cotton crops. Concern over danger rain damage to seed cotton and potential labor shortage as farmers return to farms instead of working at ginneries through late ginning.

Foreign and Domestic Trading Off During First Quarter, 1952

Railway slowdown strike of December-January, ports congestion, slow arrival in ports of upcountry export crops, stagnation of timber trade and poor sales hides and skins caused both export trade and domestic trade to fall off during first quarter. Statistics not yet available but all sources confirm above condition. Bank deposits up slightly but bulk agricultural money still in circulation, leading to expectations by trade of better second quarter. Wholesalers still overstocked.

GENERAL

1952 Nigerian Census to Start in July

Census to be taken in three stages -- North in July, 1952; West in December, 1952 and East in June 1953. Last Nigerian census in 1951 and Lagos census in 1950. Data to be gathered on population, sex, age, tribal composition, occupation, literacy, education and religion under supervision Department of Statistics.

Lagos Prison Riots

Superintendent and several warders reported seriously injured in central Lagos penitentiary riots. Short "no work" strike last week on complaints in re bad food and beds ended with no serious trouble. Riots of April 17 violent and necessitated large numbers additional police and firemen.

Awolowo Criticizes Nigerian Education and Recommends "Middle Way" Ideology for Nigeria's Politics.

In speech sponsored by British Council, Action Group leader said local education "designed to produce machines and not human

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beings". Wants applied psychology, civics and elementary economics in curricula. Questioned on Nigeria's acceptance Soviet or democratic ideology Awolowo said Communism not solved Russia's problems nor Socialism solved Britain's problems, said there is virtue in "middle way" of Sweden and Norway.

Robert W. Ross
American Vice Consul